

State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Resolution 95-6

January 26, 1995

Agenda Item No.: 95-1-3

WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code Section 39606(b) requires the Air Resources Board ("ARB" or "Board") to adopt ambient air quality standards in consideration of the public health, safety and welfare, including but not limited to health, illness, irritation to the senses, aesthetic value, interference with visibility, and effects on the economy;

WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code Sections 39606(b) and 59004(d) further provide that standards relating to health effects shall be based on the recommendation of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.

WHEREAS, the Board periodically reviews existing State ambient air quality standards to ensure that they reflect current scientific knowledge. (California Code of Regulation, Title 17, Section 70101);

WHEREAS, the existing ambient air quality standard for sulfur dioxide (SO₂) of 0.25 parts per million (ppm), averaged over one hour, is based on bronchoconstriction accompanied by symptoms, which may include wheezing, shortness of breath and chest tightness during exercise or physical activity in persons with asthma;

WHEREAS, recently published scientific research findings support the existing basis for the current State one-hour ambient air quality standard for sulfur dioxide;

WHEREAS, ARB staff and OEHHA staff have reviewed the recent health effects studies and concur in their recommendation to the Board that the current State one-hour ambient air quality standard for sulfur dioxide adequately protects public health; and that regulatory action to revise the standard is not necessary at this time;

WHEREAS, the Board has held a duly noticed public meeting at which it has received and considered evidence, both written and oral, presented to it by staff, other scientists, and members of the public relating to the standards;

WHEREAS, the California Environmental Quality Act and Board regulations require that action not be taken as proposed if feasible mitigation measures or alternatives exist that would substantially reduce any significant adverse environmental effects of the proposed action;

WHEREAS, the Board has determined, pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act and Board regulations, that this action will have no significant adverse impact on the environment;

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the current State sulfur dioxide ambient air quality standard of 0.25 parts per million, averaged over one hour, is necessary because of the potential to induce bronchoconstriction accompanied by symptoms, which may include wheezing, shortness of breath and chest tightness during exercise or physical activity in persons with asthma;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms that the existing State one-hour ambient air quality standard for sulfur dioxide is adequate to protect the public health and that regulatory action is not necessary to revise the standard at this time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the Executive Officer to continue to monitor research efforts and regulatory issues relevant to this standard and to inform the Board of any significant new developments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board also directs the Executive Officer to review this standard again in five years, or sooner if new information indicates that the existing standard may no longer be appropriate.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of Resolution 95-6, as adopted by the Air Resources Board.



Pat Hutchens, Board Secretary